

HH News Clips Summary*

9/1/17

3:40 pm

**These clip notes and summaries do not reflect the views of the Agency are for internal information purposes only.*

Notes/Trends:

- HH news coverage has slowed this afternoon.
- Media trends: fuel waiver, fuel shortages, Arkema facility status and history
- Forecast: Long-term effects of flooding, impacts on EJ communities, indoor cleaning/debris issues

New explosions expected at Crosby chemical plant, Houston Chronicle, 9/1/2017

<http://www.houstonchronicle.com/news/houston-texas/texas/article/New-explosions-expected-at-Crosby-chemical-plant-12163386.php>

The first of nine failing freezer trailers filled with volatile chemicals exploded early Thursday at the problem-plagued Arkema plant in Crosby, sending a plume of black smoke into the community east of Houston and setting off a round-the-clock watch for inevitable explosions to come.

EPA: Any toxic materials from Arkema plant fire not yet a concern, Reuters, 8/31/2017

<https://www.reuters.com/article/us-storm-harvey-arkema-epa/epa-any-toxic-materials-from-arkema-plant-fire-not-yet-a-concern-idUSKCN1BB2B2>

Concentrations of any toxic materials released in a chemical fire at Arkema SA's (AKE.PA) flooded plant 25 miles northeast of Houston appear too small for concern for now, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency said in a statement on Thursday.

Information was hard to come by as chemical plant threatened to explode — and Texas wanted it that way, Austin American-Statesman, 8/31/2017

<http://investigations.blog.statesman.com/2017/08/31/information-was-hard-to-come-by-as-chemical-plant-threatened-to-explode-and-texas-wanted-it-that-way/>

Even as their crippled plant in Crosby was on the verge of fire and explosion Thursday, officials with Arkema Inc. refused to release detailed information on their chemical stockpiles, which had already sparked an evacuation of surrounding houses.

Harvey Has Morphed into a Multi-Pronged Environmental Disaster, New Republic, 8/31/2017

<https://newrepublic.com/article/144635/harvey-morphed-multi-pronged-environmental-disaster>

Air pollution, chemical and gas spills, dirty floodwater: Harvey is posing a unique threat to public health and an incredible challenge for the regional EPA.

EPA says Harvey's floodwaters may contain disease hazards including bacteria, Reuters, 8/31/2017

<https://www.reuters.com/article/storm-harvey-water-epa/epa-says-harveys-floodwaters-may-contain-disease-hazards-including-bacteria-idUSL2N1LH20F>

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency said on Thursday that floodwaters from Tropical Storm Harvey could contain bacteria and other disease agents as sewers overflow.

Hurricane Irma holding steady as Category 3 storm in Atlantic, New Orleans Times-Picayune, 9/1/17

http://www.nola.com/hurricane/index.ssf/2017/09/hurricane_irma_powerful_cat_3.html#incart_2_box

Hurricane Irma was holding steady Friday morning (Sept. 1) as a Category 3 storm in the Atlantic, forecasters with the National Hurricane Center said.

"Pops" at flooded Arkema plant in Crosby

<http://www.houstonchronicle.com/news/houston-texas/article/Second-of-chemicals-erupt-at-flooded-Arkema-plant-12166702.php>

Pressure valves on one or more containers of volatile organic peroxides "popped" late Thursday at the flooded Arkema plant in Crosby, according to the company. Leaders are on high alert for explosions like the ones that shot plumes of smoke into the air and caused an hours-long fire at the chemical plant early Thursday. No EPA specific info. This story is running through several outlets in many versions.

Harvey's Cleanup List: Toxic Plumes, Dead Animals, Moldy Debris

<https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2017-09-01/harvey-s-cleanup-list-toxic-plumes-dead-animals-moldly-debris>

The EPA flew a chemical-sniffing plane in the area and said it didn't find toxic concentrations away from the facility. "We will consider using any authority we have to further address the situation to protect human health and the environment," EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt said in an emailed statement.

The Environmental Fallout of Hurricane Harvey

<http://nymag.com/daily/intelligencer/2017/09/the-environmental-fallout-of-hurricane-harvey.html>

"...It would be catastrophic: [Reuters reports](#) that the company's 2014 EPA risk-management plan said such a situation could put up to one million people at risk, up to 23 miles away."